

Downtown Storm Drain Approved, Bids Due Soon

COUNCIL PUTS RABIES LAW ON BALLOT

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Quarrel Ends in Double Killing

Slayer Shoots Wife, Himself

A dispute over an impending divorce apparently led a 37-year-old construction company employe to end his life early Monday morning after shooting his estranged wife at their north Torrance home, Torrance Police reported.

Dead as a result of the 5 a.m. shooting were Otis Charley White and his wife, Helen Elizabeth, 37. The shooting occurred at her home at 18245 Roslin Ave., while the couple's daughters, son-in-law, and young granddaughter were barricaded in a bedroom.

In White's car, police found a note which read:

"I want to kill myself but that was what Helen wanted and I thought it over and decided to do it this way for it would please Helen too much for me to let her live happy and me die. God help me. Otis. Please forgive me Barbara and Pat."

Barricaded in Bedroom

Barricaded in a bedroom during the shooting were Barbara White, 16; Mrs. Charlene Burch, 17, Mrs. White's daughter; her husband, Roger; and their 2-week-old son, Gary. A third daughter, Patricia, 14, was in her own room.

White came to the house about 4 a.m., Patricia told Detective Capt. Ernie Ashton. Because he had left "in a rage" the night before after discussing an impending divorce with her mother, Patricia said she hesitated to let him in until her mother said it was all right.

After White came in, Barbara and the Burches went into a bedroom, locking the door and barring it with a dresser.

Girls Were Afraid
"We were afraid of him. He didn't like Charlene or me," Barbara said. "He had threatened Mrs. White and us before."

Patricia told Capt. Ashton the shooting occurred as follows:

"I got up from my bed to answer the telephone. I had just picked up the receiver when I heard six shots. I screamed into the phone for help and went to mother's bedroom."

"Mama was on the floor and daddy was standing near her in the hallway. I tried to go to her, but daddy told me to let her alone. Mama didn't make any noise, but just laid there on her back and bit her lips in pain."

Shooting Occurs
"Daddy told me to take off his hat. I told him 'Get out, get out,' but he wouldn't. I went back to the phone to call police when I heard four more shots. Then I saw daddy on the floor beside mama. He screamed for me or Barbara to shoot him because he was in pain."

White and his wife had been separated since last January, when Patricia said, "daddy began seeing another woman."

The bodies of the couple were found by officers side by side on the bedroom floor. She was clad in pajamas, while he had on sport clothing. She had a bullet wound in her chest, and four in the left side and upper left arm. He had one wound in the center of his chest. A .32 caliber revolver lay by his head.

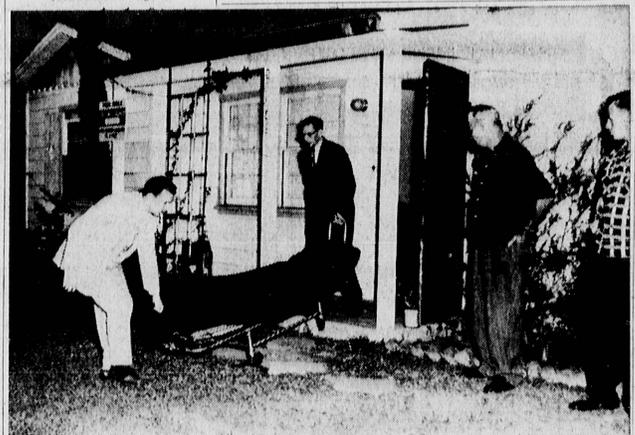
Move Planned

According to the daughters, Mrs. White was planning to sell the house and move to the home of relatives in Oklahoma.

(Continued on Page 4)



IN HAPPIER DAYS . . . This picture of Otis and Helen White shows them in happier days, before he shot her and killed himself early Monday morning. The couple were married 17 years.



AFTERMATH . . . Attendants from Stone and Myers Mortuary remove the bodies of Otis and Helen White from their home after the shooting and suicide, as bystanders look on. On the house is a "for sale" sign, since Mrs. White had planned to sell the house and move to Oklahoma.

Youth in Air Force

Robert J. McGillicuddy, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. Warren McGillicuddy, of 17902 Delia Ave., reported this week for basic training at Parks Air Force Base. The 18-year-old youth enlisted for four years in the Air Force. He and his parents recently moved to Torrance. He is a graduate of Lincoln, Neb., High School.

Suit Filed to Prevent Sale Of Site Proposed for Bowl

A Superior Court suit against the Los Angeles County Housing Authority was filed Wednesday by the Palos Verdes Corp., in an effort to prevent sale of 98 acres in the Palos Verdes Hills, which the firm says it donated for a specific purpose.

The site, fronting on Western Ave. and Palos Verdes Dr., North, has been sought for use by the proposed Pacific Bowl. According to Ivor O. Hanson, of the Palos Verdes Corp., his firm is seeking to keep the land for public use as the site of the bowl.

Representatives of the firm said that the land was donated on Dec. 13, 1939, with the understanding that the land would be used for construction of the Harbor Hills Project.

According to the Palos Verdes Corp., the Housing Authority entered into an agreement to sell 17 acres at \$3500 an acre and prepared to sell another 47 acres.

Yard Waiver Studied
A proposal by Jim Tillery, of Treasure Homes, Inc., for a waiver of rear yard setback requirements for a house on the southwest corner of Fern Ave. and Carson Sts., was sent to committee by the Torrance Planning Commission Wednesday night. He sought a setback of 12 1/2 feet instead of 20 feet.

Storm Drain Work to Start In September

Bids to construct the Cabrillo Avenue Storm Drain and a short portion of the 212th St. drain in Torrance will be received by the Los Angeles County Flood Control District Aug. 19, Supervisor Burton W. Chace said Tuesday.

The call for bids was authorized by the Board of Supervisors following approval of plans and specifications for the \$850,000 project as submitted by H. E. Heger, chief engineer of the district. Award of contract normally follows within ten days of the bid receipt. The successful bidder will be allowed 330 days to complete the work, Chace said.

Trunk Line Set

The project, as designed by City Engineer Ronald W. Bishop, will provide a trunk line storm drain to remove surface water from streets in east Torrance residential and industrial areas.

He warned residents that short portions of some streets will be closed to through traffic during construction, but that detailed plans have been made to keep traffic flowing through and around construction areas in order to cause as little inconvenience as is possible.

Three Miles Seen

Nearly three miles of reinforced concrete pipe with a maximum diameter of 84 inches will be used to install the drain. The project consists of four main lines.

Line A will be constructed in Torrance Blvd. from Western Ave. to Cabrillo Ave., in Carillo to 220th St., in 220th to Arlington Ave., in Arlington to 222nd St. and in 222nd to Plaza Del Amo.

Line B will run from the

(Continued on Page 4)

Stricter Enforcement Of Leash Law Ordered

Torrance's controversial rabies inoculation law will be left to the voters for a decision, according to action of the City Council here Tuesday evening. After hearing about an hour of testimony on both sides of the hot issue, the Council voted 3-2 to disapprove the proposed law. It immediately voted unanimously to put the matter on the ballot at the next general election, scheduled for April, 1956.

Councilman Nicholas O. Drale was the first to tip his hand officially on the matter when he entered a motion to disapprove the ordinance. His motion was seconded by Councilman Willys G. Blount—indicating immediately that the law could not be passed as an urgency ordinance as proposed. An urgency ordinance—one which takes effect immediately—must be passed by a four-fifths vote of the Council.

Three Oppose

Councilman Mervin Schwab joined Drale and Blount in opposition to the ordinance, leaving Mayor Albert Isen and Councilman Victor Benstead voting for the proposal.

Prior to the Council action, proponents and those opposing the measure were permitted to address the Council.

Dr. Kurt Sherry led off the discussion favoring the law by saying that the medical staff of Torrance Memorial Hospital had voted unanimously in favor of the rabies vaccination ordinance.

Others speaking for the ordinance included Charles S. Redding, of 4011 W. 175th St.; George Schneider, 636 Calle Miramar; Herma Tillim, 16904 Osage Ave.; Ruth Vaughn, 1722 Juniper Ave.; and Joseph Frost, 628 Calle Miramar.

Theory Cited

Vernon Frith, of 22238 Warm-side Ave., led off the opposition by saying that "no medical doctor would oppose the ordinance because that is how he makes his living." He read from a brochure purportedly written by a doctor which stated that all medicine was a theory and nothing else and that Army im-

munization records proved that the shots caused more sickness than they prevented.

He was followed at the microphone by Richard C. Hill of Highland Park; Eileen Goetz, of 5029 Milne Drive; Mrs. Charles Turner, of 2014 Martina; Rita Delmar, of Pasadena; Estelle Taylor, of Hollywood; Grant Tidmarsh, of 2151 Middlebrook Road; and S. W. Sparrow, of 708 Amanola.

A request by Hill that the

(Continued on Page 4)

Guilt Denied By Peterson

Charles V. Peterson, father of four children who is charged with robbing three liquor stores, pleaded not guilty at a preliminary hearing held in Division 31 of San Pedro Municipal Court Monday.

The 35-year-old man, who lives at 924 Belson St., had earlier told police that he staged the robberies to cover gambling losses, officers said.

Bail was set at \$5000 with a preliminary hearing set at 9:15 in Department C, Long Beach Superior Court, next Wednesday.

Charges were filed in connection with two Wilmington and one Long Beach robberies. According to police, he was arrested after the victim of an attempted robbery in Los Angeles copied his license number.

Dollar Days to Begin Today at Torrance Stores

Torrance will note its annual Dollar Day celebration this week end, as local merchants mark down prices on many of their goods, during the three-day observance.

Bargains will be featured in local stores today, tomorrow, and Saturday, with doors remaining open until 9 p.m. tomorrow night.

Special coupons good for the bus rides are featured in today's HERALD. These are good for rides on regularly scheduled buses, as well as those chartered especially for persons in the Eastern part of the Torrance trading area. Complete schedules are contained on page 23.

Witzl in Arizona

Roger L. Witzl, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ervin Witzl, of 1650 Arlington Ave., is taking summer field training with his Air Force ROTC unit at Tucson, Ariz. He will be a senior at UCLA next year.

A 1951 graduate of Torrance High School, he formerly attended El Camino College.

Work Starting On Civic Center

Contractor R. E. Payne began moving equipment and a construction shack on the site of the city's new million-dollar civic center yesterday, and ditching operations should begin tomorrow, City Manager George Stevens reported yesterday afternoon.

Official groundbreaking ceremonies which will be attended by top city officials are scheduled for 2 p.m., Monday afternoon.

Construction of the center is expected to take about eight months, which means the city offices will be moving about next May to the new location.

What is to become of the old City Hall building and the jail has not been determined, although both probably will be put on the market to the highest bidder.

In another phase of city development, the new central fire station is nearing completion and will be ready for occupancy sometime this fall.

Another new fire station at Calle Mavor and Pacific Coast Hwy. is under construction and will be ready later this year.

Contracts for construction of the new swimming pool on the civic center site and for the park development projects are nearly complete and work should start on those in the near future, according to City Manager Stevens.

Pair Held on Dope Charge

Two Torrance women are being held to answer charges they dealt in narcotics traffic, sheriff's deputies revealed this week.

Barbara May Roberts, 20, and Thelma Pugh, 19, have been held on narcotics charges by authorities.

Deputies said Mrs. Roberts' two brothers, aged 15 and 12, were put into use as narcotics salesmen by their sister. Mrs. Roberts and Miss Pugh were arrested at the former's home here.

Another Torrance woman, 18-year-old Carolyn Hill, was released because of lack of evidence, officials said.

Appendectomy Performed on City Official

John Patrick, assistant to the City Engineer, is recuperating in Torrance Memorial hospital today following rush order appendectomy Tuesday.

Patrick was in his office in the City Hall Tuesday morning when he complained of feeling ill. Visiting his physician, he was taken to the hospital where the appendectomy was performed about 1 p.m.

He is recovering from the operation with no apparent complications, it was reported.



SURVIVORS . . . In the house at the time of the shooting were the Whites' three daughters and son-in-law. Shown are Barbara White, Charlene and Roger Burch, and Patricia White.

MUMPS TOP DISTRICT DISEASES

Mumps continued its leadership among diseases in the Torrance health area during the week ending July 16, according to Health Department statistics.

Twelve cases of mumps, four of them in Torrance, were reported. Measles, leading disease in the area for most of the year, was in second place with six cases.

Other diseases included polio, four; syphilis, three; German measles and chickenpox, each two; and gonorrhrea, infectious hepatitis, and pneumonia, and scarlet fever, each one. Two cases of animal rabies, both in Redondo Beach, were reported during the week.

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See Special Values Starting on Page 23